

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 21**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Bass)**

February 14, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to the University of California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 21, as introduced, Portantino. University of California: academic partnerships.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The regents operate campuses of the University of California at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

This measure would strongly urge the regents to establish a student exchange program, or another form of academic partnership, between one or more campuses of the University of California and one or more of the institutions that are classified as Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, The campuses of the University of California are
- 2 justly regarded as comprising the premier public institution of
- 3 higher education in the world; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Public and private institutions of higher education
- 5 throughout the world are cognizant of the prestige of the University

1 of California, and may wish to participate in student exchange  
2 programs, and other forms of academic partnership, with the  
3 University of California; and

4 WHEREAS, Through academic partnerships, students of the  
5 various campuses of the University of California may greatly  
6 benefit from opportunities to study at other institutions, and to  
7 have fellowship with students from these other institutions who  
8 are able to visit, or take coursework at, the University of California;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Among the many distinguished institutions of  
11 higher education that would have an interest in student exchange  
12 programs, or other forms of academic partnership, are the 103  
13 institutions classified, under the federal Higher Education Act of  
14 1964, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs),  
15 and located in 21 states and the District of Columbia; and

16 WHEREAS, The charter of Howard University, an HBCU  
17 located in Washington, D.C., was enacted by Congress and  
18 approved by President Andrew Johnson in 1867, and the numerous  
19 distinguished alumni of Howard include the late U.S. Supreme  
20 Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Nobel laureates Toni  
21 Morrison, and famous members of Howard's faculty include Dr.  
22 Charles Drew and another Nobel laureate, Ralph Bunche, who,  
23 coincidentally, is an alumnus of UCLA; and

24 WHEREAS, Hampton University, an HBCU located in  
25 Hampton, Virginia, was founded in 1868, and is the alma mater  
26 of the renowned educator, Booker T. Washington, who later  
27 became the founder of another distinguished HBCU--Tuskegee  
28 University, which is located in Tuskegee, Alabama; and

29 WHEREAS, Fisk University, an HBCU located in Nashville,  
30 Tennessee, was founded in 1866, includes W.E.B. DuBois among  
31 its many famous alumni, and is internationally renowned for its  
32 music program--specifically for its legendary vocal ensemble, the  
33 Fisk Jubilee Singers; and

34 WHEREAS, Morehouse College, a men's institution founded  
35 in 1867, which includes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. among its  
36 alumni, and Spelman College, a women's institution founded in  
37 1881, which includes Marian Wright Edelman among its alumnae,  
38 are both HBCUs located in Atlanta, Georgia; and

39 WHEREAS, All of the HBCUs referenced above, as well as the  
40 nearly 100 other HBCUs, are of more than simply historic interest:

1 they are vibrant centers of contemporary scholarship that would  
2 be attractive places for students and faculty of the University of  
3 California to visit and do important academic work; and

4 WHEREAS, A student exchange program, or other form of  
5 academic partnership, between a campus or campuses of the  
6 University of California and one or more of the institutions  
7 comprising the Historically Black Colleges and Universities could  
8 be very beneficial to all of the students and faculty members who  
9 choose to participate; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature strongly urges the Regents  
12 of the University of California to establish a student exchange  
13 program, or another form of academic partnership, between one  
14 or more campuses of the University of California and one or more  
15 of the institutions that are classified as Historically Black Colleges  
16 and Universities; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
18 of this resolution to each member of the Regents of the University  
19 of California.